

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3131

To make participation in the American Community Survey voluntary, except with respect to certain basic questions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 8, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mrs. BACHMANN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To make participation in the American Community Survey voluntary, except with respect to certain basic questions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN COMMUNITY**
4 **SURVEY TO BE VOLUNTARY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
6 (b), no criminal penalty shall apply, under section 221 of
7 title 13, United States Code, or any other provision of law,
8 for refusing or willfully neglecting to answer questions in

1 connection with the survey, conducted by the Secretary of
2 Commerce, which is commonly referred to as the “Amer-
3 ican Community Survey”.

4 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall—

5 (1) apply in the case of a question that elicits
6 only 1 or more of the items of information described
7 in subsection (c); or

8 (2) be considered to waive any penalty imposed
9 by reason of conduct described in section 221(b) of
10 title 13, United States Code.

11 (c) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The items of infor-
12 mation described in this subsection are as follows:

13 (1) The name of the respondent.

14 (2) Contact information for the respondent.

15 (3) The date of the response.

16 (4) The number of people living or staying at
17 the same address.

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